UNITED
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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1997/821
27 October 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GABON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you by the President of the Gabonese Republic, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo.

(Signed) Denis DANGUE RÉWAKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-28700 (E) 271097 271097 281097

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Annex

Letter dated 23 October 1997 from the President of the Gabonese Republic addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as mediator, representing the heads of State designated by the France-Africa Ouagadougou Summit of December 1996 to help find a solution to the Central African crisis, and on behalf of the Inter-African Force to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB), I had addressed to you a letter dated 7 July 1997 (S/1997/543) requesting the adoption of a resolution approving the mandate of the Inter-African Force.

I welcome the understanding of the situation in the Central African Republic evidenced by the members of the Security Council over which you preside with great clear-sightedness and competence. Indeed, the adoption of Security Council resolution 1125 (1997), by which the Council approved the mandate of MISAB, served as a catalyst and facilitated the monitoring of the surrender of weapons by the former rebels, the militias and all other illegal holders of weapons.

The involvement of the Security Council in the search for peace in the Central African Republic was very well received by the people of the country. What is important now is to consolidate the peace by renewing the mandate of MISAB for a three-month period, for much still remains to be done to advance national reconciliation in the Central African Republic, a country torn by three rebellions in eight months, the root causes of which have not yet been fully dealt with.

Thus, the presence of MISAB contingents in Bangui continues to be useful and necessary, especially because there are known to be continuing tensions in the Central African subregion. I therefore wish to request, on behalf of all the heads of States with contingents in MISAB, that you take the necessary steps to extend the Inter-African Force for three months as from 6 November 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) El Hadj Omar BONGO

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1997/822
28 October 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a note verbale dated 27 October 1997 concerning a further act of aggression against Burundi on its south-eastern frontier. Attached as an appendix to that note verbale is a note verbale addressed to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

I should be grateful if you would have this note verbale distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gamaliel NDARUZANIYE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-28761 (E) 281097 281097

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Annex

Note verbale dated 27 October 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to its note verbale dated 27 October 1997 addressed to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to protest about the acts of armed aggression directed once again against the territory of Burundi by the Tanzanian army, has the honour to inform him of the following:

Burundi has just been subjected once again to an act of armed aggression by the Tanzanian army during the night of 26 to 27 October 1997, in other words one month to the day after the attacks perpetrated against Burundi by that same army on 26, 27 and 28 September 1997.

The Tanzanian army has just orchestrated a series of attacks against the territory of Burundi in the villages of Mukerezi, 2 kilometres from the Tanzanian frontier, Gihoro and Mugina in Makamba province.

The chronology of the events is as follows:

1. On 27 October 1997, at 3 a.m.: attack on the village of Mukerezi by armed elements on foot, coming from Kagunga.

2. At 5 a.m.: artillery bombardment of the village of Mukerezi.

3. At 6 a.m.: start of the bombardment of Gihoro from Kigo, a Tanzanian village.

4. At 8 a.m.: bombardment of Mugina by artillery installed in the Tanzanian police station at Manyovu.

5. At 11 a.m.: simultaneous bombardment of all these villages.

6. Throughout the day, the Tanzanian navy constantly bombarded the village of Mukerezi.

7. In addition, an imposing deployment of the Tanzanian army was observed at the frontier.

8. In the afternoon of the same day, armed elements, under cover of artillery, attacked the village of Kabonga before being driven back by the Burundian armed forces.

The provisional casualty list from all these acts of aggression is as follows:

Two soldiers and a dozen civilians, including women and children, killed;

Three soldiers and several civilians wounded;

Considerable material damage.

The utilization of Tanzanian territory, the use of patrol boats of the Tanzanian army, the firing positions of the artillery installed in the Tanzanian police station itself confirm, if need be, the responsibility of the Tanzanian army in these acts of aggression.

The Government of Burundi requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

1. To do everything possible to put an end to these attacks.

2. To help to restore communications between the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi.

3. To organize the necessary mediation between the two countries with a view to the normalization of the situation.

4. To establish a neutral observer commission along the common frontier.

5. To follow up the request of the Government of Burundi concerning the Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Appendix

Note verbale dated 27 October 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania and, with reference to its notes verbales dated 28 September and 15 October 1997, has the honour to inform it of the following:

Burundi has once again been the victim of armed aggression by the Tanzanian army during the night of 26 to 27 October 1997, in other words one month to the day after the attacks perpetrated by that same army on 26, 27 and 28 September 1997.

The Tanzanian army carried out attacks in the villages of Mukerezi, Gihoro and Mugina in Makamba province. The bombardment of those villages, which began at 3 a.m., continued throughout the morning and even into the afternoon of 27 October 1997. All the shots were fired from Tanzanian territory, from Tanzanian patrol boats, from the police station at Manyovu, from the Tanzanian military position at Kigo and from Kagunga.

All this bombardment was in preparation for a full attack, which was carried out, in the afternoon of 27 October, by armed land elements from the United Republic of Tanzania against the village of Kabonga.

The provisional casualty list from all these acts of aggression is as follows:

Two soldiers and a dozen civilians, including women and children, killed;

Three soldiers and several civilians wounded;

Considerable material damage.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi once again registers a strong protest against the repeated murderous attacks by the Tanzanian army against Burundi and demands that the Tanzanian Government put a stop to them immediately and compensate the families of all the victims of these various acts of armed aggression.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi would like, on the one hand, to draw the attention of the Tanzanian Government to its responsibility for the deterioration in relations between the two countries, and, on the other, to inform it that, in the face of these repeated acts of aggression, which form part of a consistent policy of provocation, Burundi will assume its responsibilities.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1997/823
29 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolution 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991 and all subsequent resolutions,

Expressing its firm commitment to preserve the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Angola,

Stressing the urgent need for the Government of Angola and in particular the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) to complete without further delay the implementation of their obligations under the "Acordos de Paz" (S/22609, annex), the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex) and relevant Security Council resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 17 October 1997 (S/1997/807),

Expressing its deep concern at the lack of significant progress in the peace process in Angola since the report of the Secretary-General of 24 September 1997 (S/1997/741),

Strongly deploring the failure by UNITA to comply fully with its obligations under the "Acordos de Paz", the Lusaka Protocol and with relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1127 (1997) of 28 August 1997,

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) at this critical stage of the peace process,

A

1. Decides to extend the mandate of MONUA until 30 January 1998, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report and recommendations no later than 13 January 1998 on the United Nations presence in Angola after 30 January 1998;

2. Endorses the recommendation of the Secretary-General in his report of 17 October 1997 to postpone the withdrawal of United Nations military formed units until the end of November 1997 according to the plan outlined in paragraph 15 of the above-mentioned report, and requests the Secretary-General to report no later than 8 December 1997 on the schedule for the resumed withdrawal of military personnel, taking into account the situation on the ground;

B

3. Demands that the Government of Angola and in particular UNITA complete fully and without further delay the remaining aspects of the peace process and refrain from any action which might lead to renewed hostilities;

4. Demands also that the Government of Angola and in particular UNITA cooperate fully with MONUA, including by providing full access for its verification activities, and reiterates its call on the Government of Angola to notify MONUA in a timely manner of its troop movements, in accordance with the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol and established procedures;

Determining that the present situation constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

5. Demands that UNITA comply immediately and without any conditions with the obligations set out in resolution 1127 (1997), including full cooperation in the normalization of State administration throughout Angola, including in Andulo and Bailundo;

6. Takes note that the measures specified in paragraph 4 of resolution 1127 (1997) come into force on 00.01 EST on 30 October 1997 in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 1130 (1997) of 29 September 1997, and reaffirms its readiness to review these measures or to consider the imposition of additional measures in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of resolution 1127 (1997);

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in lieu of the reports referred to in paragraph 8 of resolution 1127 (1997), to report by 8 December 1997, and every ninety days thereafter, on the compliance of UNITA with all the obligations set out in paragraph 5 above;

8. Requests also Member States to provide to the Committee created pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) information on the measures they have adopted to implement the measures specified in paragraph 4 of resolution 1127 (1997) no later than 1 December 1997;

9. Further requests the Committee created pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) to report to the Council by 15 December 1997 regarding the actions taken by Member States to implement the measures specified in paragraph 4 of resolution 1127 (1997);

C

10. Reiterates its belief that a meeting in Angola between the President of the Republic of Angola and the leader of UNITA could facilitate the process of peace and national reconciliation;

11. Urges the international community to provide assistance to facilitate the demobilization and social reintegration of ex-combatants, demining, the resettlement of displaced persons and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Angolan economy in order to consolidate the gains in the peace process;

12. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and the personnel of MONUA for assisting the parties in Angola to implement the peace process;

13. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/824
28 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward, on behalf of Chief Tom Ikimi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Committee of Five on Sierra Leone, the texts of the communiqué and the ECOWAS six-month peace plan for Sierra Leone, which were issued at the conclusion of the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ECOWAS Committee of Five with the delegation representing Major Johnny Paul Koromah, held at Conakry on 22 and 23 October 1997 (see annexes I and II, respectively).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ibrahim A. GAMBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-28754 (E) 281097

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Annex I

Communiqué issued at Conakry on 23 October 1997 at the conclusion of the meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Committee of Five on Sierra Leone of the Economic Community of West African States and the delegation representing Major Johnny Paul Koromah

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Ministerial Committee of Five on Sierra Leone held a meeting at Conakry on 22 and 23 October 1997.

2. In continuation of the negotiations initiated at Abidjan on 17 and 18 and 29 and 30 July 1997, the Committee held discussions with an enlarged delegation representing Major Johnny Paul Koromah.

3. The meeting reviewed the situation in Sierra Leone since the breakdown of negotiations between the Committee of Five and the representatives of the junta on 30 July 1997. It recalled the ECOWAS decisions concerning the monitoring of the ceasefire, the imposition of sanctions and the embargo, as well as the restoration of peace to Sierra Leone by the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG). It also recalled Security Council resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997 placing an embargo on Sierra Leone.

4. The Committee of Five and the junta's delegation agreed to accelerate efforts towards the peaceful resolution of the Sierra Leonian crisis.

5. To that end, the Committee of Five and the representatives of Major Johnny Paul Koromah adopted an ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone and a timetable for its implementation over a six-month period with effect from 23 October 1997.

6. It is recognized that Corporal Fodey Sankoh, as a leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), could continue to play an active role and participate in the peace process. In the spirit of the Abidjan Accord and in the context of this agreement, Corporal Sankoh is expected to return to his country to make his contribution to the peace process.

7. The ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone provides for:

(a) The reinstatement of the legitimate Government of President Tejan Kabbah within a period of six months;

(b) The immediate cessation of hostilities;

(c) Cooperation of the junta with ECOMOG in order to enforce the sanctions peacefully;

(d) Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants;

(e) Provision of humanitarian assistance;

(f) Return of refugees and displaced persons;

(g) Immunities and guarantees to the leaders of the coup d'état of 25 May 1997;

(h) Modalities for broadening the power base in Sierra Leone.

8. The Committee of Five and the representatives of Major Johnny Paul Koromah agreed to continue negotiations towards effective and prompt implementation of the peace plan.

9. The meeting renewed its appeal to the international community to provide appropriate humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced persons and to facilitate their return.

10. The meeting reiterated its appeal to the international community to provide adequate assistance to the neighbouring countries of Sierra Leone, which have recorded an increased influx of refugees on their territory.

11. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity for their cooperation with ECOWAS and appealed to them for material, logistic and financial support to ECOMOG to enable it to carry out the mandate given by the Authority of Heads of State and Government and the Security Council.

12. The Committee expressed its deep gratitude to General Lansana Conte, President of the Republic of Guinea, Head of State, and to the Government and people of Guinea for the excellent facilities put at their disposal and for the hospitality accorded to all the delegations.

Annex II

Economic Community of West African States six-month peace plan for Sierra Leone (23 October 1997-22 April 1998)

Schedule of implementation

PREAMBLE

Pursuant to the mandate of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to implement proposals for the resolution of the Sierra Leone crisis contained in the final communiqué issued at Conakry on 26 June 1997, a six-point peace plan has been devised for the early return of constitutional governance to Sierra Leone. These are:

1. Cessation of hostilities throughout Sierra Leone

   (a) With immediate effect;

   (b) Establish monitoring and verification mechanism.

   Note. Process to be undertaken by the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG), and United Nations military observers. The participation of United Nations military observers requires the agreement of the United Nations Security Council.

2. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants: 1-31 December 1997

   Note. ECOWAS Committee of Five ministerial assessment visit (20 November 1997).

3. Commencement of humanitarian assistance: 14 November 1997

   Note. ECOMOG to monitor the process.

4. Return of refugees and displaced persons

   Commencement date: 1 December 1997

   Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-assisted repatriation and resettlement of refugees and displaced persons.

5. Restoration of the constitutional Government and broadening of the power base:

   Takes effect from 22 April 1998

6. Immunities and guarantees:

   Takes effect from 22 April 1998

ELABORATION OF THE ECOWAS PEACE PLAN

1. Cessation of hostilities

It is considered that cessation of hostilities should come into force immediately. However, this will have to be accompanied by a monitoring and verification regime. Leaders of the various combatant units will be expected to disseminate information concerning these measures and ensure compliance with them. These measures will be supervised by ECOMOG, assisted by a United Nations military observer group. The verification process will continue right up to the termination of the peace plan, that is, until 22 April 1998.

2. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants

It is considered that a minimum of 30 days would be required to conduct effective disarmament and demobilization of combatants. This should take place from 1 to 31 December 1997. Given the nationwide dislocation of infrastructures and administration, a simple and uncomplicated procedure is envisaged. Combatants will be directed to report to designated centres in order to be engaged in the disarmament process. ECOMOG will supervise the entire process of disarmament and demobilization. Where necessary, incentives may have to be provided to encourage the voluntary participation of combatants in all this process.

3. Humanitarian assistance

Considering that sanctions/embargoes will be strictly enforced throughout the period of the implementation of the Sierra Leone peace plan, the flows of humanitarian assistance beginning on 14 November 1997 will continue to be monitored by ECOMOG and United Nations military observers. To this effect a mechanism will be established by ECOMOG to facilitate the flows of humanitarian assistance. All this will be worked out within the context of a Security Council resolution.

4. Return of refugees and displaced persons

Recognizing that refugees, particularly those in neighbouring countries, may wish to return voluntarily following the cessation of hostilities, UNHCR assistance should begin from 1 December 1997.

5. Restoration of constitutional Government and broadening of the power base

The restoration of constitutional order to Sierra Leone is at the heart of the ECOWAS peace plan. Consequently, it is considered necessary that the Government of Tejan Kabbah should be enabled to exercise effective control once he is restored to office on 22 April 1998. Nevertheless, it is recognized that for an enduring peace to be restored which will enjoy the support of the majority of Sierra Leoneans and the confidence of the subregion, efforts should be made to ensure that an all-inclusive Government is evolved. In this regard, the goodwill and assistance of the international community, both financial and material, would be necessary.

The interest of the various parties in Sierra Leone should be suitably accommodated. Accordingly, it is recommended that the new Cabinet should be a cabinet of inclusion.

Furthermore, in order to accommodate the aspirations of their supporters, board and senior civil service appointments are to reflect broad national character.

All the above power-sharing formulae should come into effect on 22 April 1998.

It is recognized that Corporal Fodey Sankoh as a leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) could continue to play an active role and participate in the peace process. In the spirit of the Abidjan Accord and in the context of this agreement, Corporal Sankoh is expected to return to his country to make his contribution to the peace process.

6. Reintegration of combatants

All those who disarm as a result of the implementation of the peace process should be provided with either job training to fit them for alternative employment or given scholarships and grants for further education. Access to education at all levels should be made available to all demobilized persons. Ex-combatants should be provided with assistance to facilitate their reintegration into their communities. We strongly appeal to the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), ECOWAS and indeed the international community to render appropriate assistance to achieve this objective.

7. Donor appeals for emergency humanitarian assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation

The United Nations and OAU, in cooperation with ECOWAS, are requested to launch these appeals as soon as hostilities cease.

8. Immunities and guarantees

It is considered essential that unconditional immunities and guarantees from prosecution be extended to all involved in the events of 25 May 1997 with effect from 22 April 1998.

DONE AT CONAKRY, THIS 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER 1997

For the ECOWAS Committee of Five
on Sierra Leone:

(Signed) Tom IKIMI
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Federal Republic of Nigeria

(Signed) Lamine KAMARA
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Guinea

For the delegation representing Major Johnny Paul Koromah
Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) regime in
Sierra Leone:

(Signed) Abdul Karim SESAY
Secretary-General, AFRC

(Signed) Alimamy Pallo BANGURA
Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs

Witnesses

For the United Nations:

(Signed) Ibrahima FALL
Assistant Secretary-General

For the Organization of African Unity:

(Signed) Adwoa COLEMAN
OAU Representative

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1997/825
28 October 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that United States military aircraft and naval vessels have carried out a series of violations and acts of provocation that pose a threat to the sovereignty and security of the Republic of Iraq. Details are as follows:

1. At 1045 hours on 14 October 1997, the United States frigate Rentz (No. 46) positioned itself 500 metres south of Mina' al-Bakr. A United States military helicopter took off from it and hovered over the port for five minutes before returning to the frigate.

2. At 1245 on 14 October 1997, a United States military aircraft violated the airspace over the Umm Qasr region.

3. At 1600 hours on 16 October 1997, when the General Establishment for Iraqi Ports dredger al-Nasr arrived at position 9275, a military helicopter from United States frigate No. 51 hovered above it and ordered it to go to position 8276 in order to be searched. The search operation lasted until 17 October 1997.

4. At 0900 hours on 17 October 1997, the United States frigate Rentz (No. 46) resumed its manoeuvres 700 metres south of Mina' al-Bakr. A helicopter from the frigate hovered over the port for five minutes before returning to the vessel.

5. At 1240 hours and 1310 hours on 17 October 1997, United States military aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the Umm Qasr region and Mina' al-Bakr.

6. At 1240 hours and 1510 hours on 21 October 1997, United States military aircraft again violated Iraqi airspace over the Umm Qasr region, alarming the civilian population.

Your intervention with the Government of the United States of America is requested, with a view to bringing a halt to such violations, which have been increasing recently with no justification. These acts are violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law and pose a threat to the sovereignty and security of the Republic of Iraq.

The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the losses suffered by its citizens as a result of these provocative acts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/52/544
S/1997/826
30 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 30 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 29 October 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-29444 (E) 311097

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ANNEX

Letter dated 29 October 1997 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 15 and 20 October 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/52/466-S/1997/801 and A/52/508-S/1997/813, respectively).

I would like to recall that previous similar allegations regarding so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 7 October 1997 (A/52/449-S/1997/785, annex). Since the present Greek Cypriot charges are no different or more credible than the ones previously made, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to underline once again, however, that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in the south has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

This endless tirade by the Greek Cypriot side will not suffice to cover up its intensive militarization campaign, which has effectively turned southern Cyprus into a war-machine, and its aggressive designs. This is evidenced by the increased level of military hardware and firepower involved in the provocative "Nikiforos-97" military exercises held jointly by the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece between 10 and 15 October 1997. Throughout the exercises, Greek aircraft and naval forces used live ammunition to fire at mock targets on land and at sea. At the closing ceremony, tanks and armoured carriers bore inscriptions on "liberating the occupied territories (north)". Greek F-16 fighter planes also participated in the ceremony, thereafter landing at the Paphos Military Airbase. "Nikiforos-97" has shown that the Greek-Greek Cypriot camp is gearing up for "joint offence" rather than the professed joint "defence", as the element of attack in joint manoeuvres is gaining weight.

Moreover, despite the fact that the decision of the Greek Cypriot administration to purchase the S-300 missile system has already created heightened tension on the island, recent reports in the Greek Cypriot press have indicated that the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives "Defence Committee" has released the necessary funds for the purchase of short-range anti-aircraft missile systems, in addition to the S-300 missiles. It will be recalled that the Security Council, by its resolutions 1092 (1996) and 1117 (1997), has expressed concern about the excessive level of armaments on the island, including the introduction of sophisticated weaponry.

Clearly, the aforementioned developments only serve to exacerbate the situation on the island and complicate the efforts to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue. All interested parties, therefore, should urge the Greek Cypriot side to abandon its reckless policy of escalation and tension

on the island and its efforts to undermine the established parameters of a settlement.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1997/827
28 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ABKHAZIA, GEORGIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of resolution 1124 (1997) of 31 July 1997, in which the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for an additional period terminating on 31 January 1998, subject to a review by the Council of the mandate of the Observer Mission in the event of any changes that may be made in the mandate or in the presence of the CIS peacekeeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The Council also requested me to continue to keep it regularly informed and to report after three months from the date of the adoption of the resolution on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, including on the operations of UNOMIG, and to provide recommendations in that report on the nature of the United Nations presence. The present report provides an update of the situation as at 27 October 1997.

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. The Georgian/Abkhaz peace process was reactivated during the reporting period through strenuous efforts made by my Special Representative, Mr. Liviu Bota, and the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, with the assistance of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia. There have also been bilateral contacts between both sides to the conflict. Despite those efforts, there continues to be no visible progress on the key issues - the future political status of Abkhazia and the permanent return of refugees and displaced persons. However, both sides have reaffirmed their commitment to resolving the conflict by political means.

3. I met with Georgian President Eduard A. Shevardnadze on 21 July in New York. We discussed all important aspects of the peace process, including the role of the United Nations in the political and peacekeeping fields. I have already reported (see S/1997/558/Add.1) on the holding of a high-level meeting

on the conflict at Geneva from 23 to 25 July, held in order to map out the areas where political progress could be made under the chairmanship of my Special Representative. Mr. Bota had intended, after consultations with the two sides, to resume the adjourned meeting on 13 October at Geneva, but was informed on 8 October by the Abkhaz leader, Mr. Vladislav Ardzinba, that the Abkhaz side needed more time for preparation on substantive issues. Regarding the draft "Protocol" (see S/1997/558, para. 5), Mr. Ardzinba stated that the text, as agreed by him, could not be subject to further discussion and that it should simply be signed. At the same time, the Russian Federation also expressed preference for a postponement of the Geneva meeting in view of the fact that it had scheduled negotiations with the two sides in Moscow on the text of the draft Protocol during that period. Following further consultations with the two sides and the Russian Federation as facilitator, it has now been agreed that the meeting should be resumed at Geneva on 17 November.

4. On 1 August, President Boris N. Yeltsin of the Russian Federation invited President Shevardnadze and Mr. Ardzinba to join him for a meeting in Moscow aimed at making headway in the peace process. In that connection, President Yeltsin expressed support for the territorial integrity of Georgia and broad autonomy for Abkhazia, and suggested that the experience of the Russian Federation in defining relations between the centre and the regions be taken into account in settling the conflict in Abkhazia. Though both President Shevardnadze and Mr. Ardzinba welcomed the initiative, they preferred to conduct further preparatory work before meeting in Moscow.

5. Georgian/Abkhaz negotiations took place at Sukhumi on 9 and 10 September under the chairmanship of the First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Pastukhov. My Special Representative, accompanied by the Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG and the head of the office in Georgia of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) participated in the meeting. In a joint communiqué adopted at the end of the negotiations, the parties, inter alia, reaffirmed their determination to strive towards a prompt resolution of existing problems and the signing of the draft Protocol in Moscow in the near future, in accordance with President Yeltsin's initiative of 1 August 1997. Recognizing the necessity of promptly beginning the process of an orderly and phased return of refugees and displaced persons, the two sides agreed that the discussion should be continued. They expressed their intention to coordinate efforts to eliminate bandit groups, whose activities disrupt the peace process and impede a settlement of the conflict and the return of refugees. The two sides supported intensifying the efforts of the CIS peacekeeping force to end the activities of such groups in the conflict zone. They welcomed the reinvigoration of the United Nations role in the peace process.

6. There have also been direct bilateral contacts between the two sides. On 14 August, President Shevardnadze met Mr. Ardzinba at Tbilisi. The meeting was facilitated by the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Yevgeni Primakov, who, prior to the meeting, had met with Mr. Ardzinba at Sochi on 9 and 10 August. In addition to the tête-à-tête meeting with President Shevardnadze, the Abkhaz leader and the members of his delegation met with political personalities at Tbilisi, including the Speaker of the Parliament, Mr. Zurab Zhvania. At the conclusion of the visit,

President Shevardnadze and Mr. Ardzinba signed a statement in which they declared, inter alia, their determination to put an end to the conflict and to restore relations of peaceful life and mutual respect. They reaffirmed their commitment not to resort to force and to settle any differences exclusively by political means through negotiations and consultations. The two sides pointed out that they had reached an agreement on a number of key issues of a peaceful settlement, though some substantial differences remained, and it was agreed to maintain constant contact in order to solve the problems caused by the conflict.

7. On 20 August, a Georgian government delegation visited Sukhumi and met with the Abkhaz leaders. Discussions focused on issues of cooperation in fields such as energy and communications. They decided to set up a coordination commission to address practical matters. On 21 and 22 September, an Abkhaz delegation visited Tbilisi, where it was received by President Shevardnadze and had talks with government officials, mainly on economic issues in the framework of the Coordination Commission. The two sides reportedly also agreed to open another channel of dialogue, among parliamentarians. According to a subsequent public statement by the Abkhaz side, unresolved political issues were affecting cooperation in various domains, including transport and communications. The next session of the Coordination Commission is scheduled for early November 1997, when Georgian representatives will travel to Sukhumi.

III. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

8. Despite the efforts of aid agencies throughout Abkhazia, Georgia, the consequences of the unresolved conflict for the population remain dire. According to reports, access to food is limited and there is widespread poverty, in particular, among the aged who have no family support or income. The level of health of the general population is falling and infectious diseases afflict thousands of civilians. The health sector is crippled by a destroyed infrastructure and outmoded policies and practices. Shelter, especially in Gali and Ochamchira but also in Sukhumi, is inadequate. Schools are in disrepair and lack basic supplies such as furniture, pens, paper and chalk. Moreover, the strains of war and subsequent isolation have had a dramatic psychological impact on children and adults alike, who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorders such as violent behaviour.

9. UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Acción contra la Hambre (ACH) and Médecins sans Frontières (MSF-France) continue to be the main agencies addressing the needs of civilians in Abkhazia. In addition, Counterpart International and the United Methodist Committee on Relief have started working in the region. UNHCR has enhanced its comprehensive programme by providing shelter materials for civilians who need support to rebuild their homes; repairing, in collaboration with ACH, 31 schools throughout Abkhazia and supplying them with furniture and school kits from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and distributing equipment and health kits to health structures and an ambulance to the hospital in Gali. The recent arrival of a protection officer has also enabled UNHCR to increase its capacity to address the protection needs of the population. ICRC continues its programmes of protection and family messages throughout the region. In addition, ICRC continues its agriculture, food aid, soup kitchen, prosthesis and medical programmes and is

preparing special parcels for the winter months. MSF-France targets support to district hospitals, the tuberculosis hospital in Gulripshi and the chlorination of water supplies in Sukhumi. The Kodori Valley has benefited from a needs assessment mission led by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, which found gaps in programmes, particularly in the health sector. Counterpart International is now addressing those needs.

10. Once again, the security situation in the region threatens aid workers and the property of their agencies. Recent hostage-taking incidents are particularly worrisome in that regard. Aid agencies have raised their concerns with the two sides to the conflict and have called on them to provide full support to ensure that life-saving programmes can continue to reach civilians in need.

11. The support of the international donor community for humanitarian programmes in Abkhazia does not meet the needs of the region. During September, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, working in close cooperation with UNHCR and other agencies, organized a visit to the region for the Netherlands Humanitarian Aid Division and a similar visit is planned for the Swedish International Development Agency. It is hoped that donors will come forward with contributions in the immediate future so that the current level of programming can be maintained.

12. The United Nations office for the protection and promotion of human rights in Abkhazia, Georgia, continues its work as mandated by the Security Council and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In addition to its main office at UNOMIG headquarters, a sub-office was opened in the city centre of Sukhumi on 1 July in order to be easily accessible to the public. Since that time, visits by members of the local population have increased significantly. Visitors have received information and advice on human rights questions. United Nations human rights publications have been distributed. In October, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights sent an expert consultant to Sukhumi to support further the work of the office.

IV. OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA

13. During the reporting period UNOMIG continued to operate in the security and restricted weapons zones of the Zugdidi and Gali sectors and in the Kodori Valley. Since 16 September, following a hostage-taking incident (see para. 23 below) and in view of persistent security threats, the modus operandi in the Zugdidi and the Gali sectors has been temporarily revised. Uninhabited areas are currently not being visited; patrolling in groups of two vehicles at all times has been instated in the Zugdidi sector; and patrolling by bicycles and on foot has been suspended, as has close monitoring of the crossing points over the Inguri River. In addition, flak jackets and helmets are now being worn by all UNOMIG personnel in the security zone of the Zugdidi sector. Within those limitations, it is the Chief Military Observer's assessment that UNOMIG continues to be able to observe and verify the parties' compliance with the Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces, signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994 (S/1994/583 and Corr.1, annex I). The Mission maintains three team

bases and a sector headquarters in each of the Zugdidi and Gali sectors (see map). In addition, there is one team base in the Kodori Valley manned periodically by observers operating from Sukhumi. The Mission's strength stands at 109 observers deployed from 23 countries (see annex).

14. A United Nations medical survey team visited the Mission during the summer to assess the medical, logistical and operational requirements of UNOMIG. The team assessed the Mission's medical facilities to be well organized and equipped, but recommended that they be provided with helicopter support for medical evacuation and with an additional ambulance. Arrangements are being made to provide the Mission with the required equipment.

15. It will be recalled that UNOMIG has made vigorous efforts to improve the safety of the Mission's staff. Nonetheless, its personnel and property were again the victims of acts of violence, including hostage-taking, robbery and theft. As a result of this situation and in addition to the change in patrolling patterns, a number of improvements are being put in place. Arrangements are being made to provide the Mission with ballistic-protective vehicles to enhance the security of the military observers and to enable them to patrol areas where armed bandits and other groups are believed to operate. In addition, a United Nations security team will visit the mission area between 5 and 15 November to provide a "training of trainers" workshop on the handling of hostage-taking incidents. The team will also ascertain whether additional security measures are required.

16. The mine threat persisted during the reporting period and several mine-related incidents were reported. The tactics of the armed groups appear to have evolved and they now use more sophisticated, remote-controlled explosive devices against carefully selected targets. As indicated in my previous reports, the mine-layers do not appear to target UNOMIG. Nonetheless, the Mission continues to take the security measures described above and is pursuing its road resurfacing project (see S/1997/340, para. 32). The project is currently interrupted owing to threats against contracted construction workers, but is expected to resume in the near future.

17. The weekly quadripartite meetings chaired by the Commander of the CIS peacekeeping force, which were suspended on 2 July when the Abkhaz side did not attend in protest against what it stated was continued infiltration by Georgian armed groups into Abkhazia (see S/1997/558, para. 20), resumed on 27 August. It will be recalled that the meetings bring together the Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG and representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz police, militia, security services and local administration to discuss security and other issues affecting both sides at the local level.

18. UNOMIG continues to cooperate with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations working on both sides of the Inguri River. It shares information with them and provides escorts when requested.

V. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA AND THE COLLECTIVE PEACEKEEPING FORCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

19. UNOMIG continues to observe the operations of the CIS peacekeeping force within the framework of the implementation of the 1994 Agreement. Cooperation on the ground between the two operations continues as described in my previous report (see S/1997/558, para. 33). Frequent and regular meetings are held to discuss matters affecting the activities of the two and mutual assistance in the sectors continues satisfactorily. It will be recalled that UNOMIG had made security arrangements with the CIS peacekeeping force. Although those arrangements have proved to be useful on several occasions, there remains a need to formalize operational procedures and the circumstances under which the CIS peacekeeping force should react to assist UNOMIG. The force was unable to assist the Mission significantly during the hostage-taking incident of 16 September because it was felt that the involvement of the force could be counterproductive and could place the lives of the hostages in serious danger.

20. The force continues to operate static checkpoints throughout the security zone and its patrolling remains limited because of the persistent mine threat. As the Security Council was informed on 14 October, two of the force's officers were severely wounded recently when attempting to defuse a booby-trapped device.

21. The mandate of the CIS peacekeeping force, which expired on 31 July, has been under consideration by political and military officials of the Russian Federation and the Government of Georgia. Following discussions at the Summit of the Council of Heads of State of CIS, which began on 22 October, the mandate was extended until 31 January 1998.

VI. SITUATION ON THE GROUND

A. General

22. The situation in the Gali and Zugdidi restricted weapons and security zones remains unsettled and tense. Criminal activities against the local population and international personnel have continued and local authorities on both sides of the Inguri River remain unable to deal fully with the situation. In a significant change from their usual operational pattern, armed groups have increased their activities in the restricted weapons zone and in areas beyond the UNOMIG area of responsibility. Such groups have continued to use mines and appear to have acquired weapons equipped with night vision capability. During the reporting period, three Abkhaz soldiers, one CIS peacekeeping force soldier and six civilians were killed in mine-related and other armed incidents in Abkhazia. On 28 September, and for the first time since the beginning of the 1996 mine campaign, two mine incidents took place in the Zugdidi sector, killing one civilian.

23. During the period covered by this report, armed groups operating from south of the Inguri River added another dimension to their tactics as small groups now infiltrate deep into Abkhaz territory. In addition, on two occasions and for the first time since the inception of the Mission, both the CIS peacekeeping

force and UNOMIG were the victims of hostage-taking incidents in the Zugdidi sector. On 16 August, three members of the CIS peacekeeping force were taken hostage in the security zone of that sector. The hostage-takers demanded the release of two dead bodies in return for the hostages. After five days of discussions, the demands of the hostage-takers were met and the soldiers were released. As members of the Security Council are aware, the second hostage-taking incident took place on 16 September, when two United Nations military observers and a local staff member were taken hostage by three unknown individuals in the Zugdidi sector. One hostage was released soon thereafter in order to deliver a message demanding a ransom for the release of the other two. Efforts to secure their release were made by the Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG, in consultation with the Georgian security forces and representatives of the CIS peacekeeping force. Ultimately, however, and in view of the immediate grave danger to the hostages, UNOMIG agreed to pay part of the ransom requested by the hostage-takers. The hostages were then released unharmed. While it was fortunately possible to resolve the incident peacefully, the payment of ransom is contrary to established United Nations policy, which dictates that the Organization should neither pay ransom nor make substantial concessions for the release of hostages. It should be stressed, therefore, that the incident does not set a precedent. United Nations policy in this regard has been reaffirmed both at Headquarters and in the Mission area.

B. Security and restricted weapons zones

24. Both sides continue to violate the 14 May 1994 Agreement. During the period, UNOMIG reported 22 violations by the Abkhaz side and 54 by the Georgian side, the majority of which were minor ones involving individual servicemen found without arms in the security zone. However, more significant violations were committed by both sides. On 29 September, several items of heavy military equipment were introduced into the restricted weapons zone of the Zugdidi sector in the context of a military exercise in the Kulevi training area, part of which is within the restricted weapons zone. For its part, the Abkhaz side has denied UNOMIG access to a coastal road on the northern side of the Gali Canal, stating that it believed that the road was mined. In addition, since 27 July, an infantry company has been present in the security zone of the Gali sector.

25. There also continue to be long-standing violations of the 1994 Agreement by both sides. Although such violations have been protested repeatedly on the spot and often at the highest levels, they continue to be committed and, of late, with added frequency. On the Georgian side, violations include the presence of an artillery unit at Khobi in the restricted weapons zone; regular passage of heavy weapons through that zone to enter the Kulevi training area; and restriction on UNOMIG's freedom of movement and access to the Senaki heavy weapons storage site and the Torsa compound. The Abkhaz side continues to restrict the Mission's freedom of movement along the coastal road mentioned above; the placement of army observation posts in the security zone; the stationing of an army mountain infantry company at Akermara; denial of access to the Ochamchira heavy weapons storage site; and tank training within the restricted weapons zone between Ochamchira and Primorsk.

C. Kodori Valley

26. The situation in the Kodori Valley has been tense and unstable. UNOMIG, which continues to patrol the valley regularly and to assist non-governmental organizations operating in the area, has not observed any violation of the 1994 Agreement. In implementation of its mandate to create conditions conducive to the safe and orderly return of refugees, UNOMIG chaired two quadripartite meetings involving representatives of two feuding Svanetian clans and representatives from the CIS peacekeeping force. During the meetings the parties agreed to a verbal "non-aggression pact" and to continue their dialogue. Georgian police units and the representatives of the "Abkhaz government in exile" maintain their presence in the Kodori Valley, but are not able to provide adequate security in the area. On 8 July, UNOMIG received reports that there had been fighting between Abkhaz and Svans, near the Russian border in the Kodori Valley, some 20 kilometres outside the Mission's area of responsibility. Although the Svanetian forces in the area were mobilized, the seriousness of the incident appears to have been exaggerated and UNOMIG did not find any evidence to substantiate it. On 21 September, two men were shot dead in what was seen as a revenge attack for a similar incident two years ago.

VII. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS

27. The Government of Georgia continues to ensure proper coordination of donor activities with assistance from both United Nations and non-United Nations organizations. In August, the Government completed preparation of the country strategy note, which defines Georgia's development priorities for the next three years, linking developmental requirements with continued humanitarian needs. In September, the country strategy note was officially presented to the donor community by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was accompanied by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the heads of the United Nations specialized agencies operating in Georgia.

28. The economic results of the first half of 1997 are particularly positive. External debt has stabilized and the financial position of Georgia, even though it has not improved, remains substantially unchanged. The rate of exchange is stable and very close to the value defined in 1995 when the new currency (the lari) was introduced to replace the coupons. The global value of the reserves of the Central Bank is sufficient to cover the foreign exchange needs of the country for two months.

29. The energy situation remains one of the major concerns of the country on the eve of another winter without proper capacity to satisfy the demand for electricity for domestic and productive uses. Last May and June, maintenance work at the Inguri River dam forced the Government to replace hydroelectric power, which is normally utilized in summer, with energy produced by the combustion of natural gas, thus consuming the limited gas reserves that are normally utilized during the winter months. As a consequence, it is expected that between January and March 1998 the electrical power supply available to the population will be even lower than last winter unless assistance is provided to procure additional gas.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS

30. My Special Representative has made strenuous efforts to reinvigorate the United Nations role in the Georgian/Abkhaz peace process. In that connection, he chaired the Geneva meeting held with both sides to the conflict from 23 to 25 July 1997. He has been consulting closely on all aspects of the peace process with various representatives of both sides, as well as with those of the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator. He has also kept regular contact with OSCE and the Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia.

31. It is disappointing that the meeting scheduled to take place at Geneva in mid-October had to be postponed. As reflected in the preceding paragraphs, my Special Representative has pursued intensive discussions with all concerned and there is now every hope that the Geneva process will be resumed from 17 to 20 November. In continuation of the agenda of the Geneva meeting of 23 to 25 July, the forthcoming meeting will map out areas where concrete political progress can be made. But it will also seek to make headway on social and economic issues aimed at supporting progress towards a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. It will also address the issue of the return of refugees.

32. It is now about five years since my predecessor dispatched the first good-will mission to Georgia and, since then, the international community has spent much effort - in vain - to move the conflict towards a peaceful solution. While doubtless the ultimate responsibility for progress in peace efforts lies squarely upon the parties, the Security Council's mandate provides for an innovative, experimental mediatory arrangement that offers the potential for productive synergy that could usefully assist the parties in their difficult challenge. For my part, I will continue to ensure that the United Nations approaches these efforts in a spirit of full transparency and coordination, as required for the arrangement to succeed. Without the presence of UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force, there can be little doubt that open conflict would resume. I urge all concerned to use the opportunity of the resumed Geneva meeting in November to achieve substantive progress.

33. While ceasefire violations have been limited to incidents of a non-violent nature (see para. 24) and the forces of both sides have remained separated since the signing of the 14 May 1994 Agreement, it is regrettable that several longstanding and significant violations of the Agreement have remained and UNOMIG's calls for their cessation have gone unheeded. I call, therefore, on the parties to abide fully by the Agreement and to cooperate with the Mission in that regard.

34. As Council members have seen, the mine threat and armed and criminal activities have been threatening the lives of innocent civilians and have affected the operations of aid agencies, the CIS peacekeeping force and UNOMIG. The Secretariat continues to do all it can to improve the safety of UNOMIG personnel and additional measures presented in paragraphs 14 and 15 above will be at a cost. I will be submitting to the Council in due course an addendum to the report containing the financial implications of those measures. The onus, however, is on the parties to ensure, in their own interest, that unarmed observers are able to operate in a secure environment. I again call on both sides to do all they can to improve the security situation in the area and to

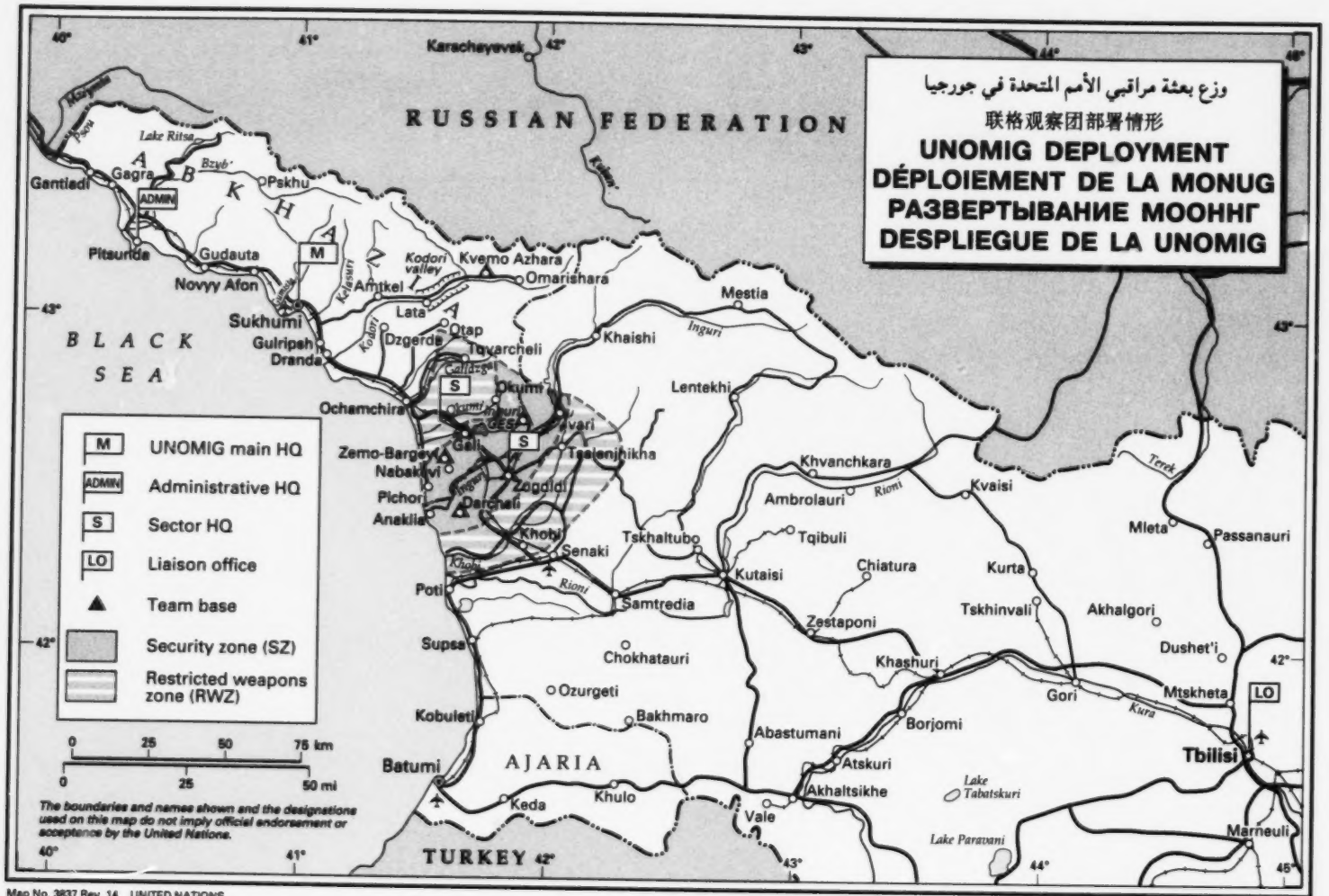
put an end to such activities, which are seriously affecting the lives of the population.

35. In concluding this report, I wish to thank my Special Representative, the Chief Military Observer and all international and local staff under their command for their dedication to the service of peace.

Annex

Composition of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia as at 24 October 1997

Country	Military observers
Albania	1
Austria	4
Bangladesh	9
Cuba	1
Czech Republic	4
Denmark	5
Egypt	4
France	5
Germany	10
Greece	4
Hungary	5
Indonesia	5
Jordan	8
Pakistan	3
Poland	4
Republic of Korea	4
Russian Federation	3
Sweden	5
Switzerland	5
Turkey	5
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7
United States of America	4
Uruguay	4
Total	109



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S/1997/828
29 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached letter dated 27 October 1997 which I have received from the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee established pursuant to the mandate of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB).

Attached to the letter is the sixth periodic report of the Member States participating in MISAB, as requested by the Security Council in its resolution 1125 (1997) of 6 August 1997. I should be grateful if you would bring the letter and its enclosure to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-28681 (E) 291097 291097

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Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 27 October 1997 from the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the sixth and final report, covering the period from 16 to 30 October 1997, requested by the Security Council in paragraph 6 of resolution 1125 (1997) concerning the situation in the Central African Republic.

For the Chairman of the International
Monitoring Committee

(Signed) Idriss NGARI
Vice-Chairman
General

Enclosure

Sixth report to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1125 (1997) concerning the situation in the Central African Republic

(27 October 1997)

INTRODUCTION

1. This is the sixth and final report which the Security Council requested the Member States participating in the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB) to provide pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1125 (1997).

2. This report describes developments in the situation in the Central African Republic from 16 to 29 October 1997.

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

3. The International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements, chaired by General Amadou Toumani Touré, is the body which directs the actions of MISAB, since it receives the necessary political guidance directly from the heads of State concerned, and especially from the President of the Gabonese Republic, who is Chairman of the International Mediation Committee.

4. The International Monitoring Committee has adopted a plan of action which reflects the gist of the main provisions of the Bangui Agreements in the form of a timetable, which can be outlined as follows:

- Formation of a government of national union;
- Adoption of an amnesty law covering those who committed offences in the context of the third rebellion;
- Disarmament (surrender of weapons by the former rebels in honour and dignity, and recovery of weapons by MISAB from militias and civilian populations);
- Implementation of the recommendations of the General Meeting on National Defence;
- Situation of former heads of State;
- Suspension of the parliamentary audit;
- Final phase of national reconciliation through a number of actions aimed at consolidating peace and security (organization of regional and sectoral awareness-raising seminars, organization of a national

reconciliation conference, elaboration of an electoral code, access by political parties to the State media and other measures).

5. MISAB is under the patronage of President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon, senior head of State of the International Mediation Committee. It is under the political authority of General Touré, Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BANGUI AGREEMENTS

Implementation of the amnesty act covering offences relating to the third rebellion and the misappropriation of public funds under investigation

6. As indicated in earlier reports, the amnesty act, which was promulgated on 15 March 1997, was implemented with a great deal of pragmatism and understanding as regards the sanctions to be taken against citizens who might have been illegally in possession of weapons following the 15-day deadline established by the law.

7. This pragmatism enabled the International Monitoring Committee to negotiate with the former rebels and to persuade them to hand over their weapons with honour and dignity. It also facilitated the organization and operation of the awareness-raising and weapons recovery campaign among the civilian population between 12 August and 3 October 1997 under the direction of the Technical Commission on Disarmament, headed by the Minister to the Office of the Minister for Territorial Administration, who is responsible for public security and disarmament.

Disarmament

8. This is, without a doubt, the most delicate phase of the national reconciliation process. The operation has two major components which have made it possible to carry out this operation effectively:

(a) The awareness-raising and voluntary participation phase;

(b) The investigation, intervention and implementation-of-the-law phase.

9. The voluntary participation phase ended on 3 October 1997. The investigations, intervention and implementation-of-the-law phase began immediately after the first phase. It involves collaborating with informers compensated according to the quality of their information. This will make it possible to locate any weapons caches. During this second period, which actually began on 3 October 1997 after the head of State granted an extension, anyone found to be illegally in possession of a weapon is to be handed over to the authorities. In addition, MISAB will conduct searches, together with the national defence and security forces other than the presidential security force.

10. Activities during the second phase of disarmament have halted temporarily owing to the bereavement suffered by the International Monitoring Committee and MISAB with the sudden and tragic death of General Augustin Mombo-Moukagni, the Force Commander.

11. A coordination and security meeting will take place in the next few days to finalize the details of the operations to be conducted with a view to recovering satisfactorily the remaining weapons.

12. Since the signing of the truce agreement on 28 June 1997 and the ceasefire agreement of 2 July 1997, the following weapons have been turned over to MISAB:

Heavy weapons

Designation	Quantity	Increase (29 September-24 October 1997)
120 mm mortars	surrendered: 2 out of a total of 4	
81 mm mortars	surrendered: 13 out of a total of 15	-
60 mm mortars	surrendered: 13 out of a total of 19	-
14.5 mm machine-guns	surrendered: 6 out of a total of 6	
12.7 mm machine-guns	surrendered: 2 out of a total of 3	
75 mm recoilless guns	surrendered: 2 out of a total of 2	
73 mm anti-tank rocket launchers	surrendered: 66 out of a total of 67	
Rocket-propelled grenades	surrendered: 7 out of a total of 11	
Total	surrendered: 111 out of a total of 127	-
	(weapons recovered: 87.40 per cent)	

Light weapons

Designation	Quantity	Increase (29 September-24 October 1997)
Hand-guns (misc.)	surrendered: 16 out of a total of 111	1
Submachine-guns	surrendered: 299 out of a total of 459	2
Assault rifles	surrendered: 261 out of a total of 541	5
MAS 36-49/56-M14 rifles + muskets	surrendered: 651 out of a total of 1,181	1
Light machine-guns	surrendered: 52 out of a total of 80	1
.30-calibre machine-guns	surrendered: 15 out of a total of 17	2
Total	surrendered: 1,294 out of a total of 2,389	9
	(weapons recovered: 54.16 per cent)	0.377 per cent

13. The relatively low rate of recovery of light weapons can be explained as follows:

(a) These are light personal weapons that are easily transported and have been taken out of Bangui;

(b) Some of these weapons were probably buried: efforts to dig them up are continuing as information is provided, with varying degrees of success;

(c) Others, particularly hand-guns (automatic pistols), are easily camouflaged and may have been sold to as yet unidentified persons;

(d) Still others may have been taken from the State arsenal during the second rebellion (May 1996) and were never returned before the outbreak of the third rebellion;

(e) An indeterminate number of light weapons that have not yet been found may have been thrown into the Ubangi River or into the forest by former rebels fleeing in June 1997 after encounters with MISAB;

(f) It should be noted that some former rebels, roughly comprising a company (132 men) and all armed with light weapons, never returned to their barracks. According to knowledgeable sources, many of these may have left the Central African Republic taking their weapons with them.

14. In such conditions, the recovery of all light weapons remains uncertain, despite intensive efforts by the neighbourhood disarmament units and the active collaboration of the population.

15. A considerable quantity of munitions of various types was recovered and packaged. The status of these munitions as at 24 October 1997 is set out below:

Designation	Quantity	Remarks
5.56 mm rounds	69 084	+468
7.5 mm SLC rounds	14 000	
7.5 mm S/B rounds	123 862	+6 621
7.5 mm X rounds	34 000	
7.5 mm X S/B rounds	135	
7.62 mm rounds, NATO	15 962	
7.62 mm Kalashnikov rounds	40 660	+2 571
7.62 mm long rounds	121 261	+1
7.62 mm Tokarev rounds	2 810	+1 910
9 mm Para rounds	5 506	+207
.12-calibre riot control rounds	731	+3
12.7 mm rounds	728	+457
14.5 mm rounds	15 322	+1 130
37 fragmentation hand grenades	1 851	+4
Fragmentation hand grenades, China	3 148	+250
GR FLG AP34	16	+13
RPG 7 rockets	1 140	+9
.37 stun hand grenades	1 043	+59
FL LAC F4 hand grenades	1 304	+4
F4 hand grenades	316	
Russian grenades	1	
60 mm mortars	1 713	+8
81 mm mortars	852	+18
120 mm mortars	113	+11
75 mm recoilless rifle rounds, US	168	+2
75 mm recoilless rifle rounds, China	223	No weapons in inventory
M79 40 mm rounds, US	6 060	No weapons in inventory
Time fuses (inactive)	2 325	
7.5 mm grenade cartridges	755	
Pyro detonator	6 100	+6 100

	Results of the fourth report	Results of the fifth report	Increase
Munitions, various types	228 758	317 138	+38.63 per cent
Explosives and detonators	9 895	17 321	+75.04 per cent

A significant quantity of miscellaneous munitions, handed over loose, not suitable for firing, will be destroyed by the competent weapons and munitions units. An analysis will be made available in due course.

Recommendations from the General Meeting on National Defence

16. It appears that quite a few of the claims made by the former rebels could be answered by responsible implementation of the 282 recommendations made at the General Meeting on National Defence which was held in August 1996 at Bangui. That is why the International Monitoring Committee, true to the spirit of the Bangui Agreements, proceeded, in April 1997, to set up an ad hoc committee to examine the said recommendations carefully and to set up a schedule for their implementation, breaking them down into categories according to what could be applicable in the short, medium and long terms, based on the sensitivity of the areas to which the recommendations relate and, above all, the financial resources that would have to be mobilized. The results of the work of the ad hoc committee, which was chaired by a leader of the opposition, General Timothée Malendoma, a former Prime Minister, have already been transmitted by the International Monitoring Committee to the Ministry of Defence for implementation at the various relevant levels. Since the International Monitoring Committee is merely a mediating body, it must leave the decisions on these matters to the relevant Central African authorities, while remaining ready to serve as arbitrator should the need arise.

Situation of former heads of State

17. A revised bill was submitted by the Government to the National Assembly. Assurances were given to the International Monitoring Committee delegation by the expanded bureau of the National Assembly at the meeting on 4 September 1997 that the bill would be considered during the first weeks of the current session of the Assembly, which began on 1 October 1997. It is anticipated that the bill will be adopted on 27 October 1997.

Suspension of the parliamentary audit

18. The Bangui Agreements call for the suspension, then the abandonment "of the judicial enforcement of the parliamentary audit" opened in respect of persons presumed to have misappropriated public funds under the previous regime, for it was understood that the audit had been conducted in a very selective manner and was creating more problems than it was resolving. The International Monitoring Committee, respecting the spirit of the Bangui Agreements, proposed that the

Central African Republic should, by a legislative act, formally renounce proceedings against authors of offences identified by the parliamentary audit. It was generally agreed that such an act would undoubtedly be taken in the context of the next session of the National Assembly.

National reconciliation

19. Each of the points mentioned above constitutes as many phases on the road leading towards national reconciliation. The present section therefore concerns the final phase of this exciting process.

20. The International Monitoring Committee, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is already engaged in making preparations for awareness-raising seminars, symposia and meetings; the first phase will take place at the provincial level and be targeted at specific groups (such as trade unions, women's organizations and youth movements), and the second phase will take place nationally, in the form of a national reconciliation conference, as recommended by the Bangui Agreements.

21. A timetable of activities covering the period 1 October to 1 December 1997 (the national holiday of the Central African Republic) was prepared jointly by the Minister for National Reconciliation, the UNDP Resident Representative and the International Monitoring Committee. This will be useful in coordinating the many activities to be carried out in this last phase of the process that began with the signing of the Bangui Agreements.

22. In the context of the restructuring of the Central African Armed Forces, the International Monitoring Committee had requested UNDP to set up a fund to assist military personnel wishing to leave active service in returning to civilian life, and UNDP had agreed to do so. UNDP launched a project on demobilization, retraining and reintegration for the Central African Armed Forces, which would enable 1,000 soldiers to return to civilian life in decent conditions and make it possible to reduce the cost of operating the armed forces and facilitate their restructuring. All Member States and international organizations may make contributions to the fund in question, which will initially be for an amount of approximately $2 million. The official signing of the project took place on Monday, 13 October 1997, and activities will get under way with the imminent arrival of the international experts.

23. A first estimate indicates that 1,000 or more soldiers will be involved in this project. UNDP has proposed Mr. Gustave Fernando González Gasques as head of the project. A national of Argentina, he has solid experience in the area of demobilization and reintegration of former soldiers into civilian life. He has managed this type of activity in Nicaragua, Mozambique, Liberia and Angola. His candidature has been accepted by the Central African Government.

COOPERATION WITH THE CENTRAL AFRICAN AUTHORITIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

24. The new electoral code recently produced by a national commission that included representatives of all political viewpoints has given rise to a disagreement over the presidency of the National Electoral Commission. The Group of Eleven Opposition Parties has requested the International Monitoring Committee to arbitrate in the matter. Various contacts are being pursued with the aim of finding a solution that is acceptable to all the parties concerned.

25. Mr. Qin Huasun, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations and President of the Security Council for the month of November 1997, made an information and working visit to Bangui from 21 to 23 October 1997. During his visit he met with the most senior officials of the State and Government of the Central African Republic and the International Monitoring Committee, the MISAB Command and individuals from diplomatic and political circles. He also visited MISAB headquarters and should be in a position to report to the Security Council his impressions of the living and working conditions of the International Monitoring Committee and MISAB.

26. Major-General Franklin van Kappen, Military Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and his Chief of Staff, Colonel François Dureau, made a working visit to Bangui from 26 to 28 October 1997. During their stay, they had numerous contacts with the civilian and military authorities of the Central African Republic, and with the International Monitoring Committee and MISAB. They will no doubt make a detailed report to both the Secretary-General and the Security Council on the outcome of their mission.

LOGISTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEE

27. The International Monitoring Committee welcomes the recent decision by UNDP to allocate additional resources ($130,000) to it. This will enable the Committee to initiate and continue its activities in the new stage it has entered in the implementation of its plan of action:

- Political monitoring of the pursuit of operations to disarm the former rebels first in Bangui and later in other parts of the country;
- Consideration of the situation of the former heads of States;
- Abandonment of the judicial enforcement of the parliamentary audit;
- Coordination of activities relating to the organization and conduct of various seminars and conferences provided for in the context of national reconciliation;
- Solving of problems arising in the execution of the project on demobilization, retraining and reintegration for the Central African armed forces.

NECESSITY OF RENEWING THE MANDATE OF MISAB

28. Undeniable progress has been made in implementing the Bangui Agreements, but there is still a long way to go in carrying out all the main provisions of the Agreements.

29. At this time, most of the weapons taken from the state armouries during the third rebellion have been returned, but there are still suspicions that other weapons illegally imported by the political parties are present in the territory of the Central African Republic.

30. The International Monitoring Committee with its neutral and impartial status can help to pave the way for the conduct of transparent elections and peaceful and orderly electoral campaigns.

31. The social situation in the country remains tense. Students at the University of Bangui have been going on strike from time to time because the Government is six months behind in the payment of study grants. The academic year did not begin, as scheduled, on Monday, 6 October, because teachers are demanding the payment of back wages before they return to work. Some trade union groups are threatening to go on strike if nothing is done to pay them six months' back wages, wages which have gone unpaid since January 1996. Some trade unions, such as the union representing employees of the Ministry of Public Health, have already gone on strike in spite of the Government's efforts to engage in a dialogue.

32. While the mediation efforts have achieved encouraging results in the political, military and security areas, the situation in the social sphere remains problematical and may set everything back to square one. It is well not to lose sight of the origin of the crisis which broke out in April 1996 with purely corporatist demands being made initially. Everybody knows what happened after that.

33. The analysis of the situation by the International Monitoring Committee and MISAB coincides with the views expressed by the population of Bangui in general and those of the political community, across the board, in particular. Indeed there is unanimous support for the maintenance of the International Monitoring Committee and MISAB for a further three-month period, beyond the final date set by the Security Council in resolution 1125 (1997). It is to be noted that this is also the wish of the central authorities of the Central African Republic, namely, the President of the Republic and the Government of Action in Defence of Democracy.

34. The International Monitoring Committee stands ready to provide, in an impartial and neutral manner, any information and clarifications which the Security Council or the United Nations Secretariat might wish to receive.

DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

35. MISAB, which is deployed throughout the city of Bangui, is ensuring security in all neighbourhoods of the Central African capital by occupying 20 surveillance posts, and is carrying out patrols nightly in each of the city's eight districts.

36. The activities of MISAB have been extended, with the agreement of the parties concerned, to operations to maintain security in the various neighbourhoods. Since the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement on 2 July 1997, MISAB has participated, on the basis of a consensus, in joint security patrols with approximately 120 men, consisting of MISAB personnel and Central African security and defence forces in all districts of Bangui.

37. It should be noted that the crime rate in Bangui and the surrounding area has continued to fall. The deployment of MISAB has brought about a distinct improvement in the security situation. The image of Bangui as a peaceful city where one can go about without fearing attacks by bandits and criminals is gradually being restored. There are increasing signs of a relaxation of tensions. Economic and cultural life and organized sports are resuming, as are international contacts.

38. MISAB and the International Monitoring Committee have been in mourning: General Augustin Mombo-Moukagni, Commander of MISAB, died of a heart attack on 14 October 1997, according to information from a medical source.

39. General Mombo-Moukagni who had served for barely two months at the head of the Inter-African Force, has left his colleagues and all who knew him with the memory of a man devoted to duty and a leader of integrity. The contingents which he commanded will find a way to transform their pain into strength, reinforcing their resolve to carry on with their noble mission of peace.

40. Colonel Talla Niang, Chief of Staff, has been appointed to serve as acting Force Commander while retaining his present functions, pursuant to the decision taken by General Touré, Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee.

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO THE MISSION

41. As indicated in the previous reports, MISAB receives logistical support from the participating States, France, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Government of the Central African Republic.

42. While recognizing the generous efforts which the States participating in MISAB, France, OAU and the Government of the Central African Republic continue to make to assist the African contingents based in Bangui, it must be acknowledged that the material conditions of the troops stand in need of improvement, as they are far inferior to those enjoyed by other similar forces operating in other conflict areas. An appropriate solution to this state of affairs should be urgently found in order to avoid demoralization among the troops, which have been endeavouring up until now to carry on their work unselfishly.

CONCLUSIONS

43. The current experience with the Central African crisis is unique and is all the more stimulating in that it is unlike any previous experience. The seminar on the strengthening of African peacekeeping capacities which was recently held in Dakar and was attended by General Amadou Toumani Touré and the former Commander of MISAB, General Edouard N'kili, made a useful contribution to the study of the various aspects of this problem.

44. It is strongly recommended that the mandate of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements be extended for a further three-month period, beginning on 6 November 1997, the date on which the current mandate given by the Security Council in its resolution 1125 (1997) expires, so that it can continue to ensure security and complete its peace-building mission.

45. It must be pointed out that, owing to the insufficiency of the African countries' own resources, logistical support from the international community, along the lines of the support which France has provided to MISAB and which remains open to contributions from all other States, is still needed.

46. The International Monitoring Committee and MISAB welcome the understanding of this issue expressed by the Security Council after its consideration of the previous reports. They hope that the appeal made to the international community by the President of the Council will be met with action.

47. Bangui has entered a new era with determination, an era marked by a gradual rebuilding of confidence and the resumption of activities in numerous spheres, which is a sign that peace has been restored. That peace must now be consolidated, by taking into account all the suggestions put forward in this report in the form of conclusions. The International Monitoring Committee, for its part, will continue to spare no effort in urging all the parties to the Central African crisis to work for the effective implementation of the Bangui Agreements, as required by its mandate and as regularly called for by the Security Council.